TOKUMA SHOTEN
Love
COMICS SERIES
愛情鎖碼
全
ごとうしのぶ
小田切ほたる
愛情鎖碼
TIME LAG
ごとうしのぶ
小田切ほたる
SHINOBU GOTOH & HOTARU ODAGIRI PRESENTS

translator: myn
scanner: cd-rom
editor: mk
[Time Lag]
a beautiful soup project

I CARD

愛情鎖碼
TIME LAG

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SHINOBU GOTOH & HOTARU ODAGIRI PRESENTS

"I've always liked you, Shiho."
But what's the possibility of the reply being YES after confessing your love to another male?
Your idea of...
a joke
is a little much for me, Satoru.
I'm not joking.
I really do feel this way about you.
I was wrong about you!
If I can never get anything in return from him,
or if he will never change the way he feels,
I like you!
Then where can I find a direction for my love for you?

TIME LAG

CAST▶
SATORU TENDÔ(left)
SHIRÔ SAWAGUCHI(right)

Such a clear, blue sky,
it makes everyone feel so alive!
Hmm ...
Must take more pictures of Shiro today.
Hey! That cute girl over there!
Who's a girl?!
GRR!
Oh—
No, looking closer, it's actually a "Loveable Angel"!
How is Angel feeling today?
These! Didn't I tell you guys to stop calling me that?!
Why? Doesn't the name suit you well?
These days, high school students spend all their time on a pedophilic game called "Loveable Angel".
It's also a lot of fun for everyone!
—But for people with cute looks, it's The Worst!
You tell us to stop calling you that, but how is that possible? Am, I right?
Why you ...!
Hey, Guys!
Oh! What a loveable angel!

Stop fooling around.
Tendo, our school's most important photographer, how are you?
He looks absolutely handsome today!
We didn't know you were here!
It's Kansho the editor in chief of the school newspaper!
GAH!
Oh yeah, aren't all of you on the journalism staff too?
Looks like you guys are getting ready to going home
Not planning to join any after school activities?
Shimomoku, Nakahara...
That's right ...
tomorrow is our Takahan District's national preliminary sporting event...
Yeah,
and it's also our own Rancho Private High School's most anticipated track athlete,
Shiro Sasaguchi's best opportunity to show his skills in front of everyone, but the most important responsibility of photographing his graceful poses is given t---

How did they manage to pass this assignment to me so easily?
He stares with such intensity!
Quick, run!
Being able to capture the true Shiro Sawaguchi is not an easy task, but with this guy here?
YES!
Everything will be O-K!
The responsibility should be given to Angel Satoru, of course!
Huh?
Bye!
So we're counting on you for tomorrow!
That kind of nickname isn't suitable for a guy.
Always calling me Angel left and right
Damn those idiots!
Don't you ever listen to what I say, Shinichi?!
I said stop calling me that!
To the gym
Ah, well
For both personal and business reasons, I have no choice. I'll go with you, Angel!

I don't want to hear those words coming from Shinichi.
We're just trying to have some fun, that's all.
Oy, there's no need for you to get so upset.
You know, you have a fan club too!
Hee hee.
But don't be so serious all the time!
Your popularity would definitely increase.
You've always been the most innocent and naive of the bunch.
Isn't it true?
At this all-boys school,
I could care less if I'm appreciated by men.
Really?
I feel the same!
But!
Even if it was so, you'd never give up, would you?

Look!
Ah
Are you talking about Amiro?
Is he the one? The one that's on the Ransho's track team?
Ahh
During the first year of high school, I confessed my feelings to Amiro,
But was rejected then and there
But of course, it was exactly same as the first time. I went home with nothing in return.
I was unwilling to give up, and so the spring of the second year, I confessed my feelings again
After that, a year passed.

But even now, I...
...
I still have feelings for Shino.
Even though I propose to give up, it doesn't mean that I can't feel the shame and disappointment
SIGH
How many times are you going to sigh, Satoru?
Why don't you give up on this doomed one-sided relationship?
You...
Why?
Because there will never be a happy ending
.....

I don't care!
You're being stubborn!
WHAP!
Just forget about him! All he can think of is his track records!
You think it's that easy to forget?
I've already been rejected twice
Even though most people give up the first time.
Heh heh
If you were in love with a pretty girl, it'd be different! But he's a man!
You were already wrong from the very beginning.
Yeah, And he's also my childhood playmate.
Aha ha ha ha ha!
Not funny.

Love is the only thing that can only be experienced by the same person in love.
I just like him.
Che. How should I know?
I like Shiro.
Living someone is always a very painful experience.
Are you going to confess again this year?
Huh?
Why?
Satoru...
Well, you did two years ago and last year.
But this year, that time has already passed.
You always do it around the time before the big summer recess. It's like a tradition for you.
Sigh. I just can't find the courage to do it every year.

What should I do this year?
But being rejected right away
"Your idea of a joke is a little too much for me!"
Even though my feelings for Shiro haven't changed,
Is a very painful experience for me.
He wouldn't even give me a serious reply
Here's my chance to start shooting!
HOP
Beep,
Yo!
Shiro's getting ready to run now!
whiiiirr
Sakoru
I have to take pictures of him running, don't I?
But now's not even that important...

smack!
.....
Huh?

Why?
Is Shiro looking this way?
No, his gaze is not on me...
He's looking behind me.
Behind me...

Shinichi ...?
TURN
I'm going back to the class- Hurry up room and finish shooting, Satoru.
Huh? Oh! OK!

Journalism Dept.
Did I forget to bring something?
...
Really,
when will he ever learn? He's still only takes pictures of Shiro.
Alice
Isn't it enough that the entire school's bulletin board is filled with his formation?
Satoru, you idiot!
.....
When will you stop obsessing over Shiro?!

This is giving me a real headache.
STOMP STOMP STOMPSTOMP
Don't make so much noise in the hall.
SLAM!
Sorry to keep you waiting, Shinichi!

I can tell, probably took a lot of good photos.
Photos!
He's already helped me put my bags together.
What's wrong?
Holding a grudge against me?
Always the same as before,
He's not even going to take a look
But this can't be helped.
Everyone has their own type of love interest
And the freedom to chase that love, right?
That reminds me, the person who always comforts me,
Is Shimizu
Like last year, and the year before that

"Stop crying!"
"I'm not crying!"
I don't think it was ugly at all,
But,
"Give up on Shiro!"
"Stop trying to chase after feelings that can never be returned!"
"Forget him!"
At that time I felt...
That ugly side of me was on display for everyone.
I said it before...
If only it was that easy for me to give up on the person I like...
Haven't you been ignored by him again today?
Didn't you say that he didn't even want to glance in your direction
.....
His glance...

Hey ?
Satoru ?
It seemed Shiro was somehow different than normal...
What was it?
Before
Ummm
By the way,
are you hungry?

Why did you change the subject all of a sudden?! Makes me seriously worry!
No, No!
I was hurt because of your callous words, Shinichi!
Stop deciding things for others!
That boy...!
I want to challenge McDonald's newest creation!
Really, I give up on you.
And so, I'm going make you treat me to dinner as punishment!
No buts allowed!
...

District
National
Preliminary
Competition
The women's 3000 meter competitor
Shiro's competition is ending,
So from now until then I have nothing to do...
I don't recognize anyone...
Wait up, Satoru!
Hey!
How can you leave your meal-ticket behind like this?!
GLOM

Huh?
...
Hm, isn't that Shinichi?
Didn't he say yesterday that he couldn't come today? Strange.
Shinichi!
He can't hear me.
Where is he going?
?
CROWDED
Whoa, whoa!
If only I was taller!...
I've lost him...
S-sorry!
Excuse me!
SHIZOI

SHOCK

Shiro...?!

What are they saying to each other?
Those two over there,
Don't you think they look handsome together?
Those two cute guys together are such eye catchers!
And the chemistry between the two is so intense!
Yeah, it's such a shame! They're probably gay!
Seeing the two of them paired up together looks so odd...
Is it something intimate? Or just an exchange of greetings?

He won't even look me in the eyes!
But now, not only is he looking at Shinichi, he's also talking to him.
I'm still...
FWIP
They were looking at each other the same way yesterday!
Shino is such a liar!
It was so hard for me...
to finally find the determination to stop thinking about him.

It was in my third year, third semester in Junior High.

It hit me a short while after I first began to like Shiina.

Before that time, he and I did everything together

But because of my shyness,

I began to avoid him

And luckily, everyone was too busy cramming for the high school entrance exams to notice

Even though I knew we were both applying for the same school

It was perfect timing

I still chose to avoid him

And from then on, right up until graduation was over

or the last day of school,

or even during the High School orientation.

I still tried my best to avoid Shiro---

After that,
I finally decided I can't let this go on forever, and so decided
that I must let him know my true feelings.
But I was rejected.
Someone at school once spread the rumour that
Shinichi is so beautiful...
If there was ever an opportunity, he would make Shiro his.
Even I can't help sometimes but stare helplessly at his beauty!
But I can't help
and then there was nothing else.
This is my first love. I just...myself! Don't know what to do...
HUG
So it wouldn't be surprising if Shiro was struck by him.
Just what is going on... between the two of them?

I can understand... I can definitely understand why...

I never would have imagined that it would be so easy for Shinichi to succeed.

but I've tried and done everything to win Shiro's heart,

but failed each and every time.

for something like this to happen.

How can things in this world be so unfair...

PING-PONG!

No, nothing.

Huh? Did you say something, Satoru?

Oh! A guest?

Coming!

Oh, it's Kansho!

Satoru-

It's Kansho!

W-What did he come here for?

I absolutely do not want to see Shinichi right now!

Damn, why does this guy always have to be so detached?
What's with the greeting?
Can you try not to be so obvious that you don't want to see me?
You're being too sensitive! Why are you here?
We'll see each other in school tomorrow, right? Is there something urgent?
Huh?
Didn't you go to our district national preliminary competition?
Hey!
Satoru.

Oh, uh.. I went but I felt sick suddenly.
so I left in the middle and came home.
panic!
Then you probably don't know Sawaguchi's preliminary results
He must have easily won the competition, right? HA HA HA!
I can guess that without even asking!
Well, that's a first... you missing Shiro
Sawaguchi at the preliminaries, he--
lost.
HUH?!
Impossible
I would never joke about something like this.
Shiro, he
How is that possible...
That's...

I know you'll definitely get the pictures for the school paper's article on Sawaguchi, right?
but in terms of the article itself... the journalists for the paper are all just amateurs.
And the one assigned for the track, who's to know he'll even show up at the competition?
The counselor said, as the editor in chief, I should go to show some responsibility.
How would you know Shiro's preliminary competition results?
Did you also attend the competition?
Yes, it was requested by the school's counselor I had no choice
So it was like that...
Was he trying to get information for the article?
If you told me, I would have gone with you.
This morning?
But, he called me just this morning.
The counselor probably had a date with someone because he was in such a rush.

Why am I feeling so confused right now?
I tried calling you this morning, but you had already left.
Is this a simple explanation?
And up until now, you still don't carry a mobile cell phone so there was no way for me to contact you.
Or is it just an excuse?
I don't understand.
what is the truth, what isn't that truth---
It's such a shame for Sawaguchi.
He's already the last year of high school for a chance to make it to the nationals
From what I gathered, he wanted to go himself,
but something happened that stalled him
So it was like that.
Oh!
I don't understand.

Oh... yes
What happened to Shiro...?
That's right There will not be another chance.
When I saw him yesterday, he was perfectly fine!
Yes but your physical and mental state is always a very strange thing to predict.
Aa.
The interview with Sawaguchi
The one that I specifically went there for, is useless now.
It was so hard for him to open up too!
Shinichi...
did you come here just to tell me the preliminary results?
No I just thought you would have been very saddened by this event...
but I guess, I've been worried for nothing.
Please don't be hurt by what I just told you
Why would I?
Ha Ha
I'm not that narrow minded!
I was troubled by something else.
Thank you for worrying about me
Well, I guess I'll see you in school tomorrow
Satoru!
GRAB!

Next week,
let's go on a date
HUH?!
Did you have some other plans already?
Not exactly..

So it's decided then!
Starting today, we're officially going out!
As far as where we're going to go on our first date,
let's wait until tomorrow to decide!
Well, good night!
Uh... good night!
...!
How the hell?
How the hell did this happen?
He's managed to get me completely off balance
what is he thinking?
A date?
Does he mean just to hang out?

Hey! Did you hear?
Sawaguchi failed in the national high school preliminary competition!
I really can't imagine that someone like Sawaguchi would lose!
He's never tasted the bitterness of defeat before, right?
Shiro's failure at the competition,
caused a huge commotion inside the school compounds.
He is a celebrity here after all!
But! The person who should be relieved right now is the grade advisor!
He was always worrying about Sawaguchi's advancements in the studies
I heard that when he barely made the passing grade to enter this school.
I think so. That's because his grades were never that great
yawn
no sleep
But he also never gives up.
I heard that he had to use points from his extra curricular activities to finally pass
that mom...
Why was he so determined to attend this school?
He're not even as famous as some of the other high schools in the Tatahan district
I don't know either...

At that time,
We were already beginning to distance ourselves from each other.
Ever since he decided to apply for this school,
Shiro began to study so hard. It was like he changed into a completely different person
Even though I hoped that we would be in the same school together
But
so I could remain classmates with him, but he
!?
He doesn't have an angelic face like Satoru,
with such good grades!
How dare you! Are you making fun of me?
No such thing. I'm just complimenting you
That's what I like about you.
Y-you not serious!
Why is he joking at a time like this?

Oh, I just think applied to make my parents happy.
Because my dad is an alumni here
Him……
Then why did you decide to apply for the school?
……and you?
Why did you want to attend the school?
Because you would be here!
If I said that was the would truth, you believe me?

Hey, there's no need for you to get so upset!
How is that possible?
He didn't even go to the same junior high school together, so we never even met before
Stop lying to me!
Why does he keep playing the same joke since yesterday?
Do you think this act of yours is entertaining?
You're really making me angry!
If this is how things really are then,
What are you going to do about Shiro?
!
Satoru ...
GIGH
My heart hurts
Today's extra curricular activities, I'm not going!

Satoru……!
When you like someone, it always has a painful beginning.
Excuse me
Plans for after graduation
Sawaguchi!
The preliminaries were such a shame!
It was your graceful skills that enticed me to select this school!
Will you ever attend any district competitions again?
I thought from now on, I could be nearer to you!
Who knew this would be the end?
Graduation

Why did you have to ruin the other students impression of you?!
Did you guys hear this?!
sigh
Sawa-guchi!
かぷっ
The Tatahan competition is not everything!
My apologies I was unable to give everyone a good finale.
I still might visit the school once in a while.
We should not be focused on doing only one thing!
Let us look into the sunset and release our youth's vigor!
(The source of these inspirational words is unknown)
Look at the star!
It's brightness will never cease!
And we also will have the same bright future.
ちゅっ

That's how it is
(swoosh)
Please don't be too disappointed about what happened.
Uh...
Thanks
My failure at the preliminaries,
was it really that significant?
no emotion
hm.
I keep feeling
everyone's eyes
are focused on me with pity.
However,
It's a lie to say that I don't feel any regret.
But, this outcome was long predetermined
and so I really don't care that much..
What I do care about is

This is nothing compared to what I really care about
.....
Contact:1 End

At the beginning, the only thing we could do was just stare at him from a distance.
During fourth grade,
none of the students knew what to do.
"We have a disabled new student who will be joining our class from now on."
But there was one child from the entire group,
My name is Kawaguchi Shiro!
Only one child would talk to him like a normal person...
Nice to meet you!
I felt so connected with the boy that I grew up, and plus
At that time, I thought he was so cute!
...he's so handsome!
That was what I was thinking at the time.

Beautiful Soup

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YA
OI

yaoi
is good.
translators
make it
better

Have you
hugged
your
translator
today?

A Love Note for Myn:

There is always something special about your first translator. Even if she has an unhealthy affection for numbers. Myn, darling, you were our first Chinese translator, and everyone agrees - you can tell by the reaction to Time Lag! XD So this is a hug, and a cute picture of Iruka to go with it, just to tell you we love you.

MK & The Soup Staff
(P.S. this is an official hug.)

beautiful soup
How beautiful is your soup?

Beautiful Soup
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Yahoo! Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beautifulsoup/

Time Lag
Scanner: CD-Rom
Translator: Myn
Editor: miscellanie
QC-er: Wild-Eep

The lights are off in Shiro's room...
He's probably having dinner...
Sigh
Shiro's letter took three years to arrive by mail
...but this letter has just now been received.
Shiro felt the same way before too
Let's go home together after the high school orientation
If you're willing to stay by my side...
OH
Kara
Shaaa

It's already too late for everything
Sigh
If only, time could rewind itself to the high school orientation again
So I could immediately find Shiro
—and confess everything to him
I'm so stupid
Thinking about things with a wasted mind
clack
slip
—can never be undone now
And to make matters worse, Shinichi is also acting weird and talking nonsense
Damn!

Even though I really like Shiro...
but Shinichi..
Shiro likes Shinichi
...likes me?
But...
Argh!!!
I'm getting a headache just thinking about all of this..!
I...
..no matter how much Shiro likes Shinichi,
...refuse to support or help him win Shinichi's heart.
Sigh...

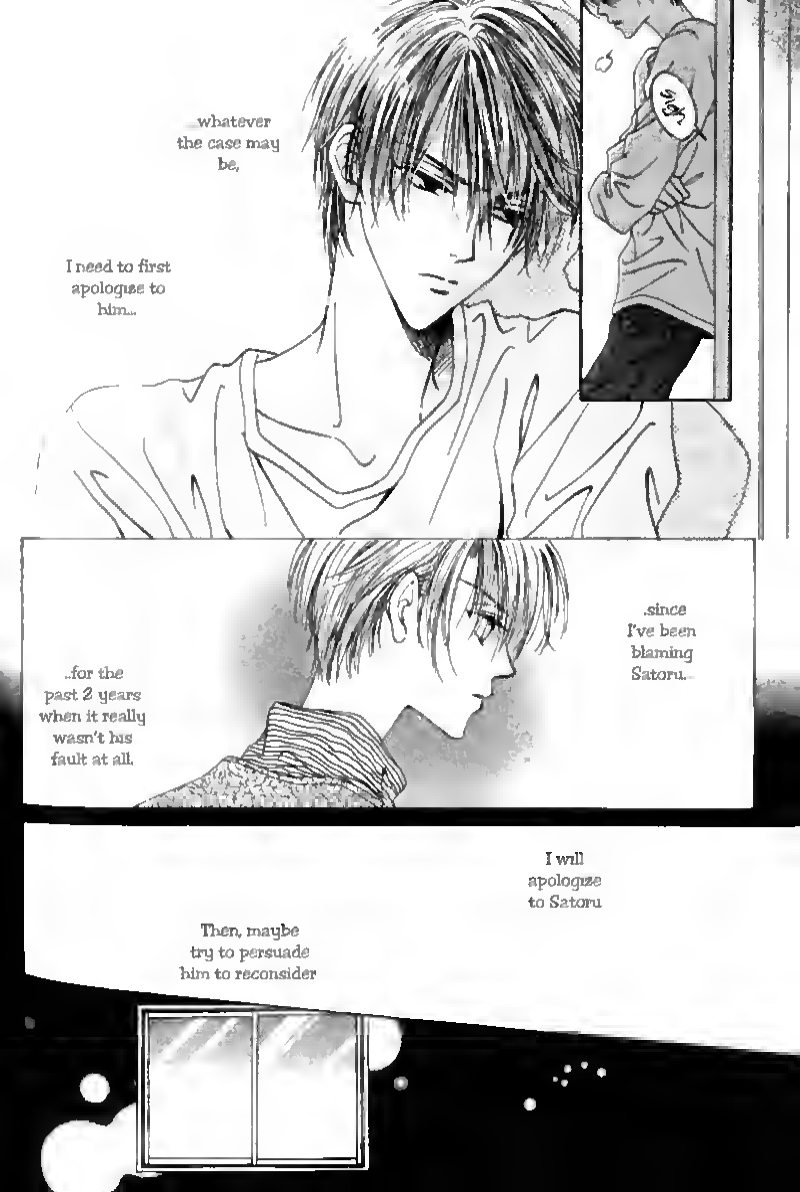
kachack

I... like...
I thought he was only mocking me then.
I like Shuro. like Shuro...
Never would have imagined...
the letter was never delivered.

That confession ..was real
...and I managed to be so cruel to Satoru.
The misunderstanding was never resolved.
...and so I continued to ignore him, resent him.
Stop pretending like nothing's happened!
For him to act like that is only natural...
since he never read my letter
Damn it!
I hate the postal service!

Satoru,
..he should already know that we feel the same for each other?
What is he thinking right now
Why hasn't he said any thing yet
But..
He would have already read my confession by now
Satoru's right across this window...
Up until this moment..
no matter how many times I try to shrug him off, he continued to stick by me.
Yes, of course!
Why?

He didn't come to me for the third confession.
This could be...
..a very bad indication.
Could it be

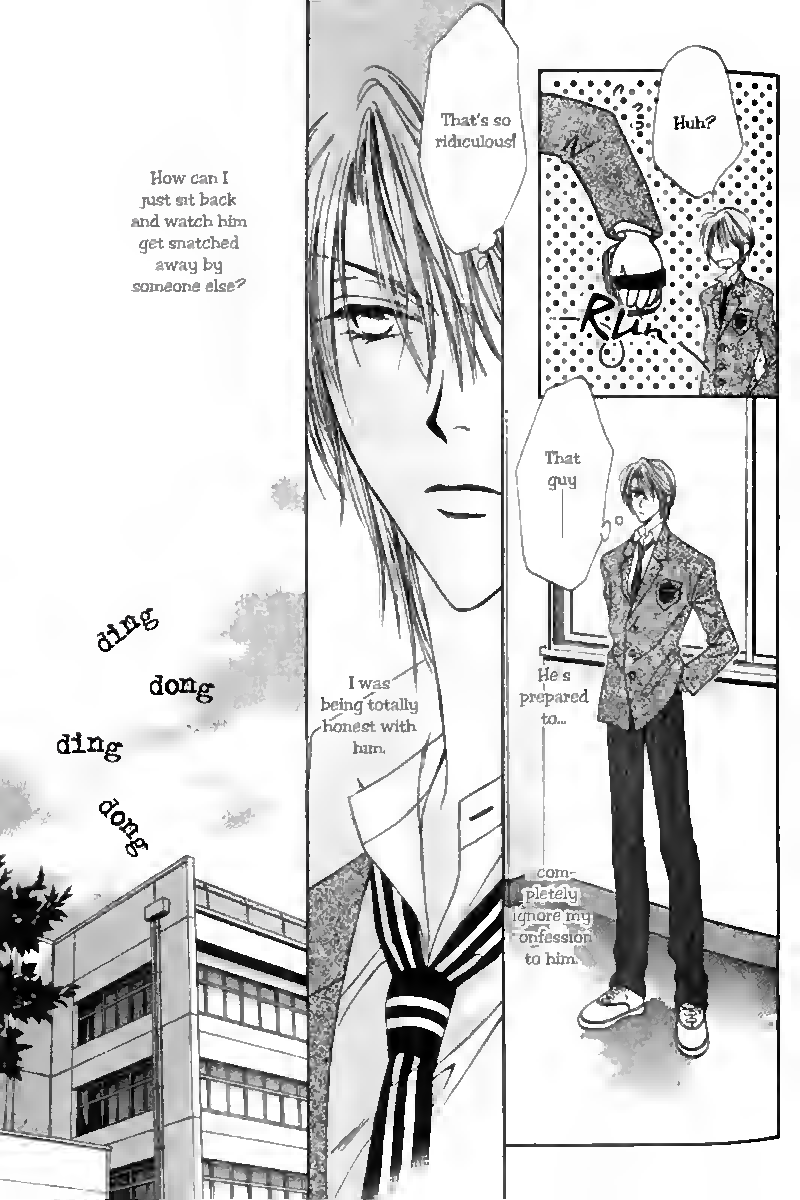

...whatever the case may be,
I need to first apologize to him...
Sigh
..since I've been blaming Satoru..
..for the past 2 years when it really wasn't his fault at all.
I will apologize to Satoru
Then, maybe try to persuade him to reconsider

pin pong
TENDOH
Oh, it's Shiro!
Good morning!
chirp. chirp
Umm... is Satoru here?
Are you here to go to school with him?
But that kid,
he forgot his own birthday today, and left in such a hurry.
Oh, okay.

Although ..
I'm so happy that Shiro came by to take him to school.
Really sorry that you came all this way for nothing
No...
...it's my fault to come over without informing you.
Feels like everything's returning to how it was before.
No choice ..
.. but to wait until lunch time to see him.

Bam!
Bam!
like everything's returning to how it was before..
If only things could return to what it once was before..
That other guy should also be there too.
Cough
Cough
Cough
Why...
Why did the wind have to blow so suddenly?

Shinichi's acting weird too!
Not only is Shiro not doing well
Nothing good happened at all.
sigh sigh
Forgot my lunch too!
aaaa
I have the feeling that nothing good will ever happen
But..
I always thought that if I tried hard enough, anything could be resolved.
HAHAHAHA
I... I
Oh!
Shin... Shinichi!!
Satoru!
BI
KU
I need to go write something in my journal now.
Satoru, yesterday...

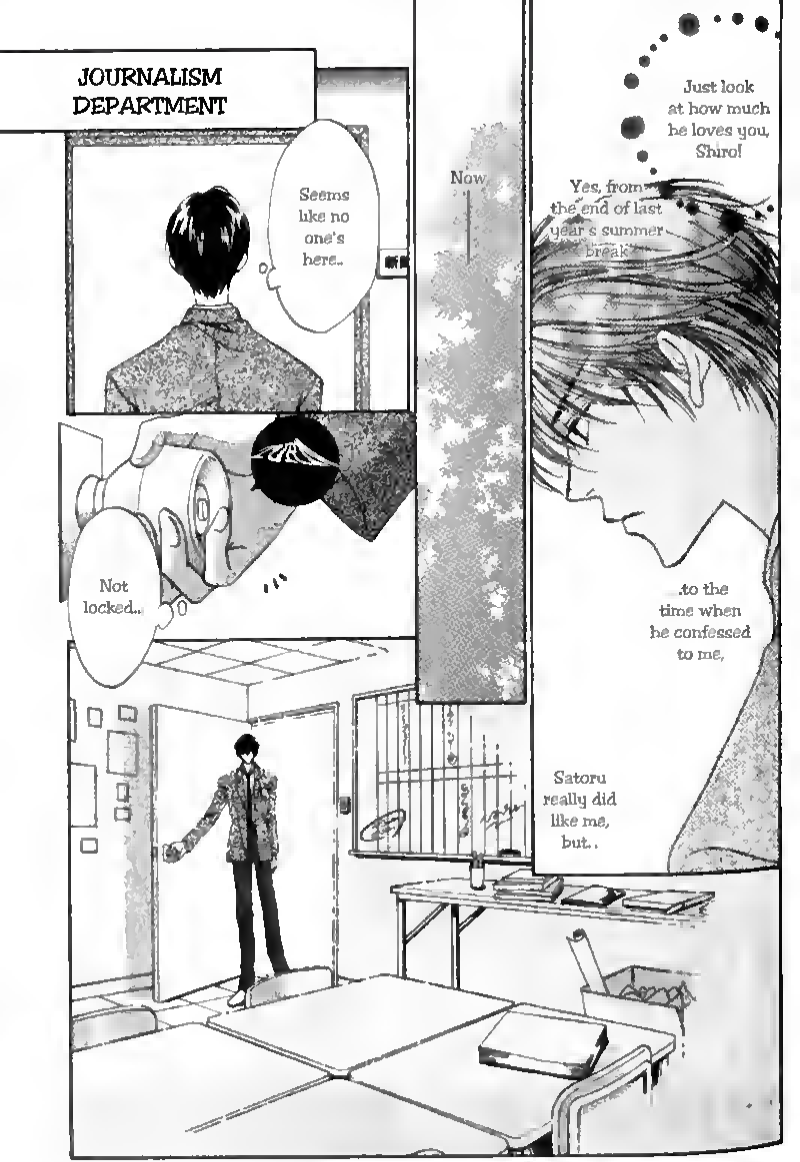

How can I just sit back and watch him get snatched away by someone else?
ding
dong
ding
dong
I was being totally honest with him.
That's so ridiculous!
Huh?
Run
That guy
He's prepared to...
completely ignore my confession to him.

SFX sounds of footsteps

Before last year's summer break,
they were just ordinary friends, but
He actually thinks Satoru is one of his possessions..
Doesn't even want to leave his side for a second.
still with that guy?
Kanshou Shinichi

Huh? Shiro!
Really?
It's Shiro!
Shiro?!
Eh?
Such a shame!
If only Satoru were here..!
How remarkable! Never imagined Shiro would ever come to our class!
Right! Where did Satoru run off to anyway?
chatter
chatter
chatter
Yes, poppet
Oh!
Probably right.
Must have been dragged off by Kansho to gosh knows where?
OH!
Never-mind.
If he's not here then forget it.
I want to see Satoru dance!
If Satoru were here, he'd probably be so happy that he'd do the dance of joy!
AHAHAHAHAHA!
Well anyway, who are you looking for, Shiro?

Damn it! Why is Satoru not here?
The day he's been waiting for has finally come!
Not true!
No one's perfect!
What a phenom-enon!
Bam!
So that means.. you really are looking for Satoru?!
Weren't you always pretending he didn't exist?
Where did that idiot run off to?
Ah!!
If it was Kansho that dragged him off, then they are probably in the journalism department.
Yes!
That's not to be!
The decora-tions in the journalism department are the coolest!
Oh, oh! You mean those!
Don't you know?
The Journalism department's classroom wall is full of Shiro's amazing pictures!
Ya!
Just look at how much he loves you, Shiro!
Whenever Satoru comes across anything that involves Shiro, he always becomes so cou-rageous, and even thick skinned!
He even ignores Kansho's warnings, and uses that wall for his own personal Shiro collage!
Alright then, I'll go over and take a look.
Yes! You do that!
What a lively group...
Have a safe trip!


JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT
Seems like no one's here..
Not locked..
Now
Just look at how much he loves you, Shiro!
Yes, from the end of last year's summer break
..to the time when he confessed to me,
Satoru really did like me, but..

There really is..
..a lot of pictures!
Doesn't really seem me
I..
..have such expressions?
..when Satoru's taking these pictures, he can read my emotions and thoughts.
It's like
Even though there isn't even one picture where I'm actually facing the camera,
but in each picture, my eyes were always so serious and focused on some task.

This one is of my first competition.
This one is the... April's competition.
I had absolutely no clue
He must have put his soul into taking these pictures
..otherwise, he couldn't have captured such great photos
..that he would take such wonderful pictures for the sake of me.
---Every competition up until Spring break...
There's no
...pictures of last Sunday's competition..

Last Sunday's District Preliminary competition,
However ...
I could have won with great honor
So that's it.
Is it really...
... already too late?

Is it true?
Huh?
Liar!
Really!
You picked the best time to buy bread.
Well...it's because I forgot to bring my lunch!
What?
How could you forget about something so important?
Because all we could think of was Kansho probably came to snatch you away...
You could try to see if he's there...
WHOA! WHOA!
So Fast
Nevermind about that! Why did Shiro come to find me?
Dunno
so we told him that you were probably in the journalism department.
Already disappeared.

Ha?!
Ha?!
Ha?!
Ha?!
He actually came to look for me
KO
KO
This world can't always be full of unfortunate events!
Even though I don't know what it's for..
..but, no matter what it is, it doesn't matter!
ha ha ha
BAM

Right! Maybe that's it!
D Class!
Maybe he couldn't find me so...
Not here!
Ha Ha
Where? Where could Shiro be?
...he returned to his own class-room?
Ha
Ha
D Class...
D Class
Fu
FU
Fu
FU
WAH!

Uhh
Hey...
Are you alright?
Shinichi.
Why are you in such a rush?
Thank you...

Wait!
It..
It doesn't concern you.
Ever since this morning, I've been feeling that you've..
..been avoiding me on purpose, am I right?

I confessed to the one I liked about true my feelings for him.
That's because you've been talking about all those strange things!
Don't run away!
What's so wrong with that?
Let
Let go of me! Stop kidding around!
Who's kidding around?!!

I really do like you!
So much so that I don't want to give you to that Shiro!

Kansho, you're in for a shock! Shiro actually went to look for Satoru!
He's finally taking the initiative now?
I...
My feelings are true, Satoru.
Shiro!

Satoru..?
Shin...ichi.?

contact.3 End

contact.3 >End

愛情鎖碼
TIME LAG
contact.4

turn
clench
che!
SHINICHI ...
SFX: SLAP
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
THAT HURTS...

IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO LEAVE.
I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU WERE THINKING, JERK!
OF COURSE!
YOU SURE DON'T SHOW ME ANY MERCY
THAT HURTS
I was too careless
SO NOW,
DO YOU FINALLY BELIEVE THAT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU ARE REAL?
I...
... CAN'T.

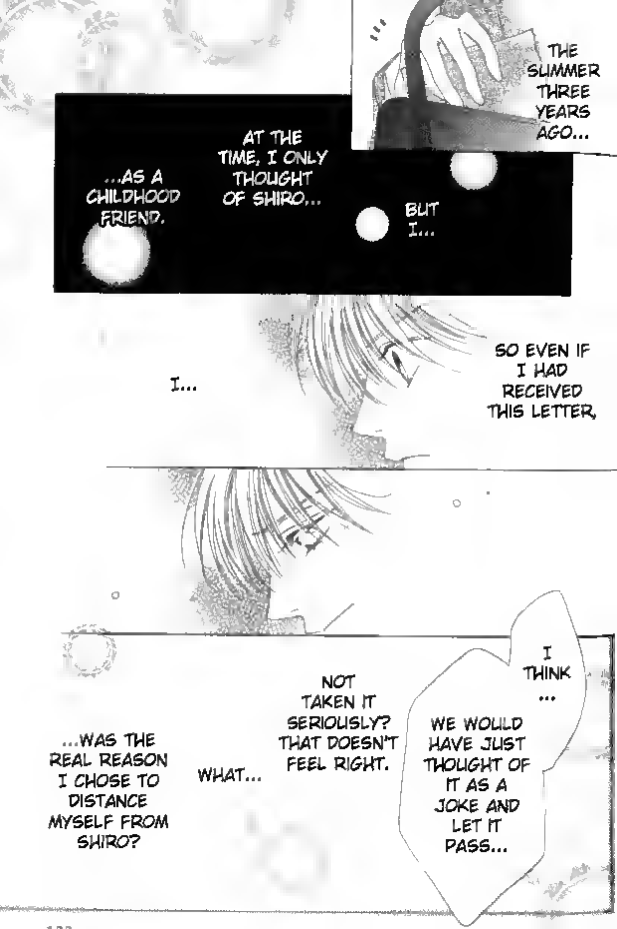
I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK ABOUT
ANYONE ELSE.
I STILL LIKE SHIRO.
SATORU, HE DOESN'T ...
I KNOW!
SHIRO DOESN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE ANYMORE.

IS HE SERIOUS?
WHY?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE REJECTS ME, I'LL ALWAYS BE INFATUATED WITH HIM...
I KNOW IT MAKES ME LOOK DESPERATE,
BUT...
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP!

EVEN IF SHIRO LIKES SOMEONE ELSE.
EVEN IF I WON'T RECEIVE ANYTHING IN RETURN.
NO MATTER WHAT, I WOULD STILL LIKE HIM...
I WOULD STILL LIKE HIM SO MUCH I WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK MY TEARS.
I WOULD STILL,
I WOULD STILL,

Graduation
Counselor

NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, I'M STILL GOING TO WAIT! I'M GOING TO TALK TO HIM NO MATTER WHAT!
IN THE END, I STILL DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO HIM DURING THE AFTERNOON BREAK.
SHIRO IS TAKING FOREVER...
Class Monitor from class D
SHIRO WAS CALLED TO THE GRADUATION COUNSELOR'S OFFICE!
SO, THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO TALK FOR A LONG TIME.
COULD IT BE...
WHY IS HE LOOKING FOR ME?
. .CONCERNING THIS LETTER?
WHERE WOULD WE BE NOW,
IF ONLY I HAD RECEIVED THIS LETTER ON TIME?
HE POURED OUT HIS SOUL
INTO THIS CONFESSION.


...
THE SUMMER THREE YEARS AGO...
AT THE TIME, I ONLY THOUGHT OF SHIRO...
BUT I...
...AS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
SO EVEN IF I HAD RECEIVED THIS LETTER,
I...
I THINK ...
WE WOULD HAVE JUST THOUGHT OF IT AS A JOKE AND LET IT PASS...
NOT TAKEN IT SERIOUSLY? THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
WHAT...
...WAS THE REAL REASON I CHOSE TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM SHIRO?

KR EEK
Oh!
NO MATTER WHICH PATH WE TAKE...
WOULD STILL BE IN COMPLETE DARKNESS
...WE WOULD NEVER SUCCEED...
IF I HAD REJECTED HIM THEN,
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I REALIZED I LOVED HIM LATER ON,
AND EVEN IF WE CONTINUED TO BE TOGETHER, OUR FUTURE..
THANKS, BYE
K-chiK
Shh
tap tap

SHIRO...
SHIRO...
Ienaga

CLOSER TO EACH OTHER THAN ANYONE ELSE
GREW UP WITH ONE ANOTHER...
Drip..
WE WERE ALWAYS THE CLOSEST TO ONE ANOTHER ..
BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
WE'VE...
I ONLY NEEDED TO OPEN MY WINDOW AND I WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SHIRO

WHY DID WE GROW SO FAR APART?
SHIRO...
...WHY?
SHIRO ...
grasp

...HUH?

turn
SH-
SHIRO!
TA

Ha
Ha.
WAIT UP!
Ha
Ha.

SATORU.
THE...
THE..
THIS...
WE...
HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO SET STRAIGHT.

CHERRY
CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...
THEY BLOOM SO FAST, THEY'RE ALREADY FALLING..
SSh
SSh

IT'S BEEN SO LONG ...
SINCE I'VE SEEN HIS SMILE.
BOOM
OH, YES, I...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
HIS SMILE WILL ALWAYS ENGULF ME COMPLETELY.
HMM ... THAT'S TRUE...
IT'S WHAT I LOVE THE MOST...

DO YOU HAVE IT WITH YOU RIGHT NOW?
THE OTHER DAY..
OH, YES...
IT'S IN MY SCHOOL BAG...
OH..
Shuffle
SATORU,
THE LETTER.. DID YOU GET IT?
HUH?
SATORU.
ALL THE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE TO YOU...
I'M REALLY SORRY,

IT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU NEVER RECEIVED THE LETTER...
AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY... I'VE BEEN SO MEAN TO YOU.
I'M REALLY REALLY SORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING TO ME?
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING!
IF ONLY I WERE MORE COURAGEOUS...
AND TRUE TO MY FEELINGS...
SATORU, I'VE...

...ALWAYS REALLY LIKED YOU.
BUT,
I'M READY TO GIVE UP MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.

CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE THAT BACK TO ME?
HUH
WHY WOULD YOU GIVE ME A LETTER,
THEN FORCE ME TO RETURN IT TO YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY?"
IT'D BE UNFAIR TO KANSHO.
YOU...
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH FOR SHINICHI? WHY?!
SHIRO... AND SHINICHI REALLY ARE...
WELL... OF COURSE!
WHAT... SHIRO!
ISN'T HE THE ONE YOU REALLY LIKE?
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT SHINICHI, HUH?
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM?!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT ANYMORE! IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T KNOW!
YOU WANT TO BE WITH HIM, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHIRO?!
I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
...
...
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO BE WITH KANSHO!
YES!
THAT'S WHY!
I HOPE YOU CAN BE WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN BRING YOU HAPPINESS.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I'M CHOOSING TO GIVE UP MY FEELINGS FOR YOU!
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
THE ONE I LIKE IS YOU, SHIRO!
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY WANT TO BE WITH HIM?
STOP TRYING TO SWITCH POSITIONS ON ME!

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S SWITCHING POSITIONS!
WEREN'T YOU...
WEREN'T YOU KISSING HIM?
...OH!
THAT...
YOU... SAW THAT?
WITH KANSHO!
DURING LUNCH
OH NO?
KISS .. ?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ...
HUH?

AND... AND I ALSO USED MY HAND TO BLOCK!
NO, NO... SHINICHI WAS ACTUALLY...
HE SAW IT.
YES!
DON'T TELL ME YOU DO THAT WITH PEOPLE WHO'RE JUST FRIENDS!
Like this!
A-AND THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T REALLY KISS!
SATORU REALLY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH?
.....?
I REALLY DIDN'T KISS HIM!
THAT WAS NOT AN EXCUSE! IT'S THE TRUTH!
HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT? YOU MAKE EXCUSES FOR SOMETHING AS OBVIOUS AS THAT?
YOU'RE REALLY VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

Mind your own business!
What?
BUT YOUR CONVERSATION IS COMPLETELY MIXED UP.
AND ALSO NEVER-ENDING.
SHI...
SHINICHI?!
...AND SINCE HALF OF IT CONCERNS ME
APOLOGIES, SATORU.
THE KISS WAS SOMETHING I PLANNED FOR THAT PERCISE MOMENT.
IT WAS INTENTIONAL.
...MY ORIGINAL PLAN WAS JUST TO OBSERVE QUIETLY...
HUH?!
HUH?!
BECAUSE I SAW SHIRO PASSING BY...
I WANTED TO MISLEAD HIM.
My photo is fun shot without the expression of my face on the front.

SO, SATORU AND I ARE NOT TOGETHER.
unfortunately
AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED,
AND SPEAKING OF WHICH,
SHIRO DOESN'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR ME, AM I RIGHT?
WHAT?!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE, SHINICHI!
gya—!
gya—!
DON'T BE UPSET!
AREN'T I APOLOGIZING NOW?
ALSO, DIDN'T YOU GET A CHANCE TO SLAP ME WITHOUT ANY HINT OF MERCY?
I wasn't successful.
OF COURSE NOT!
you're making me nauseous
BECAUSE ...
ruff.
ONLY SOMEONE LIKE SATORU WOULD MISINTERPRET THESE THINGS!
what were you even thinking?

I WAS DEFEATED BY..
SATORU'S STUBBORN PERSONALITY.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES,
AND YET, HE CONTINUED UNTIL SHIRO UNDERSTOOD HIS FEELINGS.
SHINICHI...
BUT I WASN'T DEFEATED WITHOUT GRACE!
...I LOST.
I LOST TO YOU UNCONDITIONALLY.

I'LL STEP ASIDE FOR SHIRO!
Pat
THIS TIME,
OH... I CAN NEVER FIGURE YOU OUT.
YOU TWO HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP TOGETHER!
Smile
AH...
TH... THAT WAS...
AH.
Grrrgle
grrlle
grrrgle
Short Hops

heh
NOW THAT THIS IS TAKEN CARE OF, I'M FEELING HUNGRY...
THAT... THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT TO EAT LUNCH TODAY...
OH!
SHIRO, YOU TOO?
HUH,
I DIDN'T EAT EITHER.
ME TOO.
AHAHA
PHFF
THAT'S SO FUNNY!
WAIT, BEFORE WE DO,
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO HOME!
THE LETTER...
OK...
...OH.

...CAN YOU GIVE IT BACK TO ME?
YO!
I'VE MANAGED TO CLIMB THROUGH THE WINDOW!
IT WASN'T HARD AT ALL!
So easy
BADA
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE ANYWHERE YOU WANT.
SO THIS IS SHIRO'S ROOM AFTER THREE YEARS...
.....

I'VE MISSED BEING HERE...
IT HASN'T CHANGED... ONE BIT!
THE POSTERS ON THE WALLS, THE DESK ARRANGEMENTS,
ALL JUST LIKE HOW I REMEMBERED THEM.
I'M SO TOUCHED
HM...
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS...
....
SHIRO HIMSELF HAS GOTTEN OLDER...
LOOKING AT HIM NOW,
I FEEL THAT AFTER THE PAST 3 YEARS, HE'S BECOME MORE LIKE A REAL MAN...

BUT THE ROOM'S CHANGED A LOT LESS THAN I IMAGINED.
I STILL FEEL SAFE IN HERE.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T BEEN IN YOUR ROOM FOR A LONG TIME,
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH, ER, OH, IT'S NOTHING!
BLUSH
...ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO THE PAST.
I, MYSELF, HAVE CHANGED A LOT.
...IS THAT SO?

AS FOR MY FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU,
EVEN THOUGH I'VE...
...TRIED TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT WE SHOULD ONLY BE FRIENDS,
IT NEVER WORKED.
I'M SORRY... I'VE ALWAYS FELT GUILTY ABOUT THE FEELINGS I HAVE TOWARDS YOU.
SHIRO ... .

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
IT'S JUST THAT,
Ba-Dum
IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN...
TO MAKE YOU MINE...
..SHI...
..... OBSESSED ABOUT...

BEING TOGETHER WITH YOU LIKE THIS...
SHIRO ...
I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF
TH .. THIS IS SOME-THING.
I'VE ALSO FELT THE SAME WAY...
I'VE ALSO...
WHICH IS ALSO WHY I'VE ALWAYS FOLLOWED YOU EVERYWHERE WITH MY CAMERA
HOPING THAT I COULD CAPTURE YOUR EVERY MOVEMENT AND EXPRESSION INTO MY LENS.
OH YES...
I'VE ALSO WANTED TO MAKE YOU MINE.

I LIKE YOU!
I'VE FORCED YOU TO BE ALONE FOR SO LONG... I'M SORRY.
... IT'S OKAY.
HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY GIVEN ME A LETTER?
THAT'S ... TURNED INTO MY MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION!
I BELIEVE THAT IF WE EVER LIVED IN TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS AGAIN,
OUR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

AHAHA...
DON'T EVEN TALK LIKE THAT!
IDIOT!
I NEVER WANT TO BE AWAY FROM YOU!
OH... BUT,
BA
FU
FROM THIS DAY FORTH,
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR EVERY BIT OF THE TIME WE'VE LOST OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS.
SHIRO...
WHOMP
SATORU!
Kawahara always picks the best times
My mom's voice can go through the walls!
I THOUGHT I SHUT THE WINDOW ...
?
SHINICHI?
PHONE!
SHINICHI'S CALLING!
NA

SATORU, YOU SHOULD GO.
WHAT?!
IT'S ALREADY GETTING LATE.
YOUR MOM'S CALLING YOU CAN'T IGNORE HER!
Satoru! Didn't I tell you that there was a phone call?!
Damn it!
sigh
JUST FORGET ABOUT HIM!
IT CAN'T BE THAT IMPORTANT.. JUST IGNORE HIM!
.....
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK SHINICHI WOULD LET US OFF THAT EASILY.
Satoru!!
Okay! I hear you already!
BANG
BUMP
CRASH
THROUGH WINDOW
OKAY. BE CAREFUL!
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, SHIRO.
GOOD NIGHT!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON!
Shutter
AND SO,
GIVE EVERYTHING YOUR ALL, AND YOU'LL NEVER FAIL!
THINGS CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE;
NOT EVERYTHING IS LIKE OUR SITUATION.
ktk
DAMN IT! KANSHO, THAT IDIOT!
Oh, this is just a small
Payback.
PULSE
PULSE
I CAN JUST IMAGINE THE SMIRK ON HIS FACE RIGHT NOW!
Same smirk as when he left us

SHIRO'S SMILING, I THINK IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT...
AND THEY LOOK SO INTIMATE...
SWEAT
SHIRO AND SATORU ARE COMING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.
SWEAT
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, SHIRO'S GRADUATION COUNSELOR WOULD WEEP WITH JOY.
IF NOT, I CAN ALWAYS BE YOUR PRIVATE TUTOR!
BUT ONLY IF WE CAN TAKE THE SAME UNI EXAMS!
Oh!
GOOD MORNING, SATORU!
Smile
WOAHH...
HEY!
GOOD MORNING, SHINICHI!

Happiness...
I am so lucky!
It's so! Kawaiko
Look!! Hmmm
EVEN THE BLIND CAN SEE HAPPINESS...
IT MAKES ME
SO ENVIOUS...
YOU THINK SO?
YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC IN THE MORNING.
IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH IF YOU DON'T PUT MORE EFFORT INTO YOUR STUDIES, SHIRO.
BUT, IF YOU'RE THINKING OF ATTENDING THE SAME UNIVERSITY AS SATORU,
THIS CONVERSATION IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
THANKS FOR LAST NIGHT!
HM?
WHAT DID I DO?
Swipe

FIVE HOURS A DAY!
FROM NOW ON, I'LL STUDY TOGETHER WITH YOU!
SHIRO! SHIRO!
GRRRR...
THERE COULD BE SOME COMPLI-CATIONS.
ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE NO OTHER WAY,
!!?
5 HRS
BECAUSE THE PRELIMINARIES WAS A FAILURE,
EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS OVER.
BUT ISN'T THERE A SUMMER NATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITION?
A.. TRACK COMPE-TITION?
Didn't Know!
WELL,
WHY MUST YOU RAIN IN ON OUR PARADE ?!
THERE WILL BE AN EXCLUSIVE TRACK COMPETITION IN TWO WEEKS.
WHAT?

HIS RESULTS FROM SUNDAY WERE PRETTY BAD.
HMM... THAT'S RIGHT.
SHIRO WASN'T SELECTED, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WON'T THE NATIONALS TAKE THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS INTO CONSIDERATION?
...YES, THAT'S TRUE..
BUT SHINICHI,
HE MAY STILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO IMPRESS THE RECRUITERS.
BUT SHIRO HASN'T ATTENDED ANOTHER BEFORE...
ALTHOUGH IT WAS VERY OFFICIAL, HE DID COMPETE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITIONS, RIGHT?

SO, I'VE HEARD THE NATIONAL COMPETITION WILL BE REQUESTING SHIRO TO ATTEND AT ANY MINUTE!
...I THINK THE RECRUITERS WANT THE ATHLETES TO COMPETE AGAIN, JUST TO GIVE THEM A SECOND CHANCE.
...OH, I SEE!
SHIRO
MUST BE REALLY HAPPY!

SHUT UP!
HA HA!
ATTENDING THE SAME UNIVERSITY COULD BE A DISTANT DREAM.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I CAN SEE SHIRO RUN AGAIN!
...BUT,
IF THIS IS REAL,
THEN SHIRO WILL SPEND MORE TIME TRAINING.
what to do?
SATORU,
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE ANY PHOTOS DURING THE NATIONAL PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRELIMINARY COMPETITION?
HUH?
OF COURSE, BEING THE KIND-HEARTED EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE PHOTOS FOR THIS, SATORU!
I WOULD GO EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T ASK ME!
YOU CAN TAKE PICTURES UNTIL YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
WAIT A MINUTE!
OH... ....

I...
IDIOT!
SO, THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS TO ME THIS YEAR,
BECAUSE THERE WERE NO PICTURES, AND
YOU .. WHY DID YOU... ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT IN PUBLIC!
I'LL TELL YOU
THE NEXT TIME WE'RE ALONE.
NEXT TIME,
LET'S MEET IN MY ROOM!

I TOLD YOU TO STOP TALKING LIKE THAT!
GAH
SHOVE
I'LL BE WRITING AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE COMPETITION!
LET'S HOLD HANDS WHILE WE WALK TO CLASS, IT'LL BE JUST LIKE A DATE!
WHICH MEANS THAT I'LL BE GOING TOO! LET'S CONSIDER IT A DATE!
WOULD YOU STOP IT ALREADY?!
This will be annoying
Who said I would let you so easily?
Have we gone so far in
Didn't you say I could have fun?

contact.4 End

OKAY,
SO, WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS?
...
WHY...
WHY MUST SHINICHI ALWAYS TAG ALONG FOR OUR STUDY SESSIONS!
NOTHING'S CHANGED.
WELL, I NEED TO STUDY FOR UNIVERSITY EXAMS TOO!
THREE BRAINS STUDYING TOGETHER WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE!
Such a ball

Why did I touch him?!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH SATORU, HAVE YOU?
HEY! YOU BASTARD!
SFX: HUG!
BECAUSE I'M BUSY...
AH!
I'M SO SORRY, SATORU!
ALAS, I MUST SAY SOMETHING:
TODAY I MUST SAY GOODBYE TO THE BOTH OF YOU.
WHAT?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE LIBRARY? WITH US?
He he!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS TRAINING FOR THE UPCOMING TRACK MEET.
ANY FREE TIME YOU HAVE IS SPENT ON STUDYING!
home is not convenient
SO, IT'S TRUE!
Ha Ha Ha
...I'M UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION!
?
?

WHO CARES? I THINK IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS.
IT'S STILL THE SAME AS BEFORE,
OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK
NOW,
I CAN FOCUS MORE ON MY STUDIES.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM?
DID HE FIND SOME-ONE ELSE TO DATE?
G-GOOD LUCK, SHIRO!
FLASHBACK
AHHH, SO ADMIRABLE! SO VERY ADMIRABLE!
YOU TWO ARE MAINTAINING A VIRTUOUS, CLEAN, PURE RELATIONSHIP!
Ow!
RECENTLY, SHINICH! HASN'T BEEN AROUND US THAT MUCH...
SEE YA!
Bye!
SINCE WE STUDIED SO HARD, WE SHOULD SET OUR SIGHTS ON TOKYO UNIVERSITY NOW!
SURE!
AND WE SHOULD FIND A PLACE TO LIVE TOGETHER.
HM...
And if we try hard enough, our parents will let us.
AND THEN,

AND DO THINGS WE REALLY WANT TO DO.
WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT PARENTS,
EDITOR: HOLY POOP! SATORU LOOKS SO HANDSOME IN THAT FRAME!
JUST WHAT ARE YOU REFERRING TO...?
THE HEAT OF THE SUMMER CONTINUES ...